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HOSPITAL AND TRAINING-SCHOOL ITEMS



HOSPITALS

PHILADELPHIA is said to have received from Mr. Henry Phipps a gift of one million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the erection of an institute for the study, treatment, and prevention of tuberculosis to be modelled on the lines of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, but to be devoted to the study of tuberculosis exclusively. Pavilions having a capacity for one hundred beds for advanced cases of tuberculosis form a part of the plans. These cases will furnish clinical matter for the study of the disease. Well-equipped laboratories, baths of every description, and, in fact, every device known to science for the study and treatment of the disease will be provided. The site has not yet been selected. The main building will include a Finsen light institute modelled upon the famous Finsen light institute of Copenhagen, which was erected at the expense of the Danish Government. Finsen introduced the method of curing tuberculosis of the skin by sunlight or electric light, and so successful has been his treatment of this disease that thousands of patients suffering from it have been attracted to Copenhagen from all parts of the world. There will also be a dispensary for the treatment of walking cases of tuberculosis modelled upon the famous Emile Roux dispensary at Lille, in Northern France.

MISS LILIAN CRAIG, Class of 1899, Toronto General Hospital, has held the position of nurse in connection with one of the large universities and writes of her experience thus: "The work here is most interesting and varied. The infirmary consists of a main building containing fourteen beds, and an annex for contagious cases containing the same number. The average number of patients is ten, making for the year four or five hundred, while there is provision also for dispensary dressings, which usually number about two hundred. Last year there were a great many typhoid cases and also scarlet fever, consequently when the term closed in June we found ourselves quite ready to take advantage of the rest.

MISS MARGUERITA CLENDINNING, lady superintendent of the City Hospital, Vancouver, B. C. (Toronto General Hospital), writes that there is a prospect of a new hospital being built in that city. Twenty thousand dollars has been subscribed within two months, and when the sum of fifty thousand dollars has been obtained the city is pledged to raise another fifty thousand. The site has already been secured, and consists of six acres of land delightfully located.

TRAINING-SCHOOL NOTES

THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF WOMEN IN TRAINING-SCHOOLS

NOTWITHSTANDING the wonderful advance of science in all branches of work in the past few years, nowhere can greater progress be seen than in the training-schools for nurses in our large cities. In point of time we are not so very far removed from the days of Sairy Gamp, but what an evolution has taken place in the hospital and sick-room! In what percentage of cases could the modern doctor hope for a successful recovery if he had not the coöperation of the modern trained nurse? Instead of striking terror into the hearts of the afflicted family,

the nurse is now made welcome, hailed with joy, in fact, and each year the demand for trained nurses is increased. People find that it is the greatest comfort to have a trained nurse always on hand, especially if they are travelling or there are delicate children to be watched and cared for, prevention being proved better than cure in many cases, and when her professional duties are light, the other resources of a nurse are sounded, and she has many calls on her talents, be they what they may.

The heads of training-schools are called upon, not only for well-trained nurses, but for bright, intelligent, companionable women, and they are doing all in their power to supply this demand; the consequence is that each year has some additional improvement in the schools. The course now means three years of hard work, and as "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," one of our New York hospitals is this winter giving the nurses a course of lectures on parliamentary law, and classes for physical culture, singing, and reading. These classes are conducted with a twofold purpose in view, that of entertaining and instructing. At the lectures on parliamentary law the nurses are taught how properly to conduct a meeting, a knowledge which they can put to good use at alumnae and other meetings. The singing-classes are simply for pleasure, but the physical culture is an important part of the work. These women when they enter a training-school suddenly begin to use many muscles which, in the majority of cases, are not well developed; the result is backache, footache, pains of various kinds that are complained of at night, and bad position in standing. A few simple exercises relieve fatigue by equalizing the circulation and counteract the effect of any strain which may have been necessitated in the day's work.

Until lately, what principal of a training-school knew whether the nurse she was sending out could read aloud well? And yet one of the questions constantly asked is, "Can she read aloud?" At first it seems absurd, but on second thought one realizes that reading aloud is one of the chief ways of amusing and diverting the patient, that the days of convalescence are often longer than those of acute illness, and the matter assumes more importance. At this rate of progress, the day seems not so far away when the hospital course will vie with the college course in the higher education of women. Young women will pay high fees for tuition and take as much pride in writing "trained nurse" after their names as they now do in the B. A. degree!

L. F. S.

WE are authorized to state that the report that has been circulated recently, to the effect that the Mills Training-School for Male Nurses in connection with Bellevue was to be given up because of certain abuses on the part of the young men is entirely without foundation, and we are assured that the following extracts from the New York *Sun* from an address recently delivered by Dr. John W. Brannan before the Hospital Alumni is accurate:

"Dr. Brannan said that he had intended to tell the company of the changes made in the insane pavilion at Bellevue, under which Bellevue patients now received the same treatment as that administered at the State hospitals; of the organization of a fire brigade, with frequent and regular drills; of changes in the house staff, and of the expectation of the Board of Hospital Trustees to start during the present year on plans for a new building which will take five years for completion and cost some three million dollars. But he dwelt mainly upon the recent charges against the administration of the alcoholic ward of Belle-

vue. When he told of the proposed new hospital building there was loud applause.

"Dr. Brandon said that charges absurd in their nature were made against one of the house staff, but that they were investigated and shown to be groundless and were dismissed. Three days later charges were made against pupils of the school so infamous that they might not be recited. They were made by a patient in the alcoholic ward. The District Attorney had felt called upon to take cognizance of them, and Dr. Brannan said that he had seen the District Attorney every day since.

"An open investigation had been determined to be best and the trial had gone far enough for him to say that the charges were baseless.

" 'The charges were not proved,' he said, 'and I know them to be unfounded.' The tale was of an orgy lasting from ten o'clock in the evening until five in the morning, except when a policeman was present. How do we know that the charges were groundless? There were thirty patients in the ward at the time. We have found and examined all but four of these. Of the four, one is dead, one is in the Manhattan Hospital, and two are in the workhouse. The patient making the charges is the only one who saw what he described.

"There will not be a Scotch verdict. To my mind the District Attorney will bring charges against this man who made the charges against the hospital. If he be of sound mind, he will be punished; we shall insist upon it. And I think that from this time there will be no more charges against Bellevue Hospital.

" 'Let the other hospitals continue to send alcoholics, wounded burglars, attempted suicides, and insane patients to Bellevue, which is an emergency hospital. We will take care of them all, and incidentally we will give young medical men opportunities for training such as they can get nowhere else in town.' "

In a paper on "The Accuracy of Certain Clinical Methods" Dr. C. P. Emerson, of the Johns Hopkins University, mentions the nurses and their work as follows in speaking of the examination and testing of urine:

"But we shall not speak of the students' use of the method, but of the nurses', for we hope the time is not far distant when the urea chart will be the duty of the trained nurse as well as the temperature chart; for the successful use of the urea tube depends on skilful manipulation rather than scientific training, and a nurse can be trained to make the determination as satisfactorily as can the doctor.

"The Intermediate Class of the Nurses' Training-School connected with the Johns Hopkins Hospital is given a course in urinary analysis, consisting of lectures and laboratory work. They meet on six days, one hour a day, and are trained to make the following tests: Specific gravity; the presence of albumin (heat and Heller's tests), its amount as measured by the Esbach tube; the presence of sugar (Fehling's test) and the determination of urea with the Doremus tube. After this course they have a practical examination, testing various urines.

"The following are the results of the urea determinations made at this year's final examination. The question was, 'How many grains of urea per litre?'

"Eleven students obtained the same result as the instructor.

"Eight students obtained results one gram lower than the instructor.

"Two students obtained results two grams lower than the instructor.

"Three students obtained results one gram higher than the instructor.

"Had we been able to provide them with the Hinds' modification I imagine their results would have been even more uniform, yet those who have used the apparatus with its one-cubic-centimetre pipette cannot fail to appreciate the uniformity of the above figures. I would also add that not one of the twenty-four nurses was in error concerning the presence or absence of sugar and albumin."

Miss Gross, superintendent of Grace Hospital, Detroit, has established a new course of which she writes:

"I have begun a three-months' preliminary course for my present probation class. It is less extended than the Johns Hopkins course, but it is suited to our present means and is within the scope that I carry on without an additional assistant. I received eleven probationers (half the class) on January 5. They all spent the first few days in the home, where they were taught bedmaking, dusting, and various household duties, but not cooking. The cooking will be taught in the diet-kitchen. About the third day I sent a probationer to each ward and one to the diet kitchen for the forenoons only, the other four to remain in the home for a month, when they will go to the wards and another four to the home, and so on, until all have had experience in the three departments. The afternoons are spent in class and lecture work, from two to five. They are taught the theory and practice of nursing. Our lecture-course comprises the following: anatomy and physiology, hygiene and sanitation, dietetics and bacteriology. There is nothing new or original in this plan, but I think it is very essential that some time should be spent in the wards to ascertain the aptitude of the probationer for practical nursing. We are all exceedingly interested in this new phase of the work."

THE Massachusetts General Hospital Training-School held graduating exercises in the new surgical amphitheatre on February 16, followed by a reception in the domestic building, where refreshments were served. The exercises were of the usual order, but in Miss Dolliver's report the facts were brought out that the nurses had made and carefully recorded during the past year over two thousand observations on the effect of alcohol upon the appetite, tongue, sleep, temperature, respiration, pulse, etc., very materially assisting thereby a research in which one of the physicians was interested, and that they are now engaged in collecting one thousand observations on the conditions and causes of the act of vomiting, a research on which they hope to report at some future graduation. The following young ladies were given diplomas: Emily A. Snow, Alice K. Ruggles, Garnet I. Pelton, Helen A. Wayland, Harriet E. Maybee, Annabel Haskell, Della H. Folger, Mary E. Spear, Lucia L. Belles, Mabelle W. Parker, Celeste B. Shaw, Selma L. Kuhn, Lily H. McCallum, Mary L. Reynolds, Edith M. Duff, Maud A. Fisher, Mamie I. Lynds, Addie M. Kirby, Ada F. Adams, Annie L. Mulock, Alice C. S. Cushman, Kate W. Moorhouse. The attendance was large, including many distinguished physicians and nurses.

MISS ISA G. MACBRIEN, Illinois Training-School, Class of 1892, is acting as assistant registrar for the Boston Directory for Nurses, having been appointed last July. This directory is in connection with the Boston Medical Library, and it is highly complimentary to Miss Macbrien that she should be chosen rather than a Boston nurse.

[The Boston Directory is not in favor with all Boston nurses, who have started an independent directory of their own under the management of the Boston Nurses' Club.—ED.]